

MENA Annual Conference

Wednesday, November 18th, 2015 • The Address Downtown, Mohammed Bin Rashid Boulevard, Downtown, Dubai, UAE

8.00am Registration

9.00am Introduction and welcome

Ranya Afifi, Network Director, MENAT, The Economist Corporate Network

9.10am Keynote Address and Global Economic Outlook

The global economy has hit many stumbling blocks in 2015 starting with the US's icy first quarter followed by fears of a Grexit and now a possible hard landing in China and ambiguity on when the Fed will raise interest rates. These developments have dampened investor confidence and hindered wage growth, which ultimately has adversely affected global trade. The interconnectivity within the global community has created a state of "hyperglobalization," that has us all searching for the silver lining in the global economy to boost confidence at home. We will discuss our outlook for 2016.

Robert Ward, Editorial Director, The Economist Intelligence Unit

9.45am Panel Discussion: Integrating Iran in the Global Community

The P5+1 have agreed to ease sanctions on Iran as it adheres to the nuclear agreement. If all goes as planned, Iran should be ready for business in 2016. The economic proposition Iran offers is a formidable one, with a 80mn strong population that is well-educated and has a sizable purchasing power. While the investor community is excited, they remain cautious. We will discuss the who is already doing business in Iran, the lucrative opportunities for MENAT businesses, the barriers to entry for some businesses, and the challenges that may result from rapid growth.

Ranya Afifi, Network Director, MENAT, The Economist Corporate Network

Parham Gohari, Partner, Frontier Partners

James Gohary, Principal Banking Specialist, International Finance Corporation

Razieh Ebrahimi, Founder and Managing Director, Middle East Investment and Management Consultancy (MIMC)

11.00am Break

11.30am Panel Discussion: Saudi Arabia's Challenges

Saudi Arabia is facing many challenges at home, on its borders and from exogenous factors, namely lower oil prices. The new reality of lower petrodollars has already prompted some reforms such as capital markets opening up to foreign investors and will continue to accentuate the need for more reforms. We will discuss the current supply shortages, the changing landscape of domestic policies, and the future of government/private partnerships.

Pratibha Thaker, Regional Director, Middle East & Africa, The Economist Intelligence Unit

12.15pm Panel Discussion: Egypt's Economic Transition

A slew of factors have resulted in Egypt's economy to underperform, despite the political will to jump start economic activity. We will discuss how monetary policy is at the crux of the problem and how going forward the onus is on lawmakers to draft investment laws that are conducive to attracting FDI, while law enforcement continue to weed out corruption. Business leaders will share their challenges and discuss their outlook on how the business environment and the potential that lies beneath.

Chair: Ranya Afifi, Network Director, MENAT, The Economist Corporate Network

12.55pm Round-up and Close

1.00pm Lunch and Networking

2.00pm End

Speakers:



Ranya Afifi
Network Director, MENAT
The Economist Corporate Network



Robert Ward
Editorial Director
The Economist Intelligence Unit



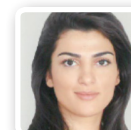
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Note: These meetings are limited to senior-level executives of an organisation. Per invitation only.

TO RSVP PLEASE
EMAIL US AT:
ecn_me@economist.com
Please include information such as
full name, title and contact details.